



Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Dec. 19, is paper. Put items in paper bags, boxes or bundles and place them on the curb.



Mark the date-- National Prayer Luncheon Feb. 22

Aberdeen Proving Ground will host its annual National Prayer Luncheon 11:30 a.m., Feb. 22, at Top of the Bay. The guest speaker will be Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien, archbishop of Baltimore.

For ticket information, call 410-278-4333.

Midnight Madness at the PX this Saturday

Shop till you drop around the clock at the Aberdeen Main PX at midnight. The first 100 customers in the door will receive a free \$20 gift card (limit one per Family). From 3 to 7 a.m. there will be a \$25 gift card giveaway every half hour.

The Mainstreet USA Food Court will offer a coffee and pastry special, midnight to 5 a.m.

The event also includes hourly manager specials and drawings, coupons for 20 percent off any one item from midnight to 6 a.m. (maximum discount not to exceed \$100), and more.

Thrift Shop closes for holidays

The APG Thrift Shop will close its doors for the holiday at 2 p.m., Dec. 20 and reopen Jan. 16.

The entire staff thanks everyone for their patronage throughout the year so that the community can be better served through donations from the shop.

CFC ends this week

The APG Combined Federal Campaign has reached \$312,042 of APG's \$400,000 goal.

The last day for accepting pledges is Dec. 15. For more information, or to make a contribution, contact a CFC key worker, visit the APG CFC Office in building 2752 (Rodman Road), or call 410-278-1399/5320/5327.

See **SHORTS**, page 6

Issue Highlights

Page 2... U.S. Marine Corps News
Pages 3... VFW supports APG Soldiers in Iraq
Pages 4... APG honors Native American Indian heritage
Page 6... Chapel News
Pages 7... Preventing substance abuse on APG
Page 8... Safety reminders for the holidays
Page 9... APG unit returns home
Page 10... MWR
Page 13... Marines take home 2007 Commander's Cup
Page 14... KUSAHC Health Notes
Page 15... 16th wins boxing tournament

Community enjoys ACS holiday tree lighting and extravaganza

Story and photo by **YVONNE JOHNSON**
 APG News

Hundreds turned out for the Aberdeen Proving Ground holiday tree lighting and extravaganza hosted by Army Community Service at the Post Recreation Center Dec. 6.

The event, which features holiday sing-along songs, games and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, has become an annual tradition for the APG community.

Celestine Beckett, ACS director, greeted the crowd and welcomed all on behalf of Regina Dannenfelsler, director of Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

"This is an exciting time for ACS because we get to see our Families and friends," Beckett said, adding that the community is continuing to celebrate the 90th anniversary of APG as well as its military retirees and Family members.

"Tonight will be a celebration of fun, fellowship and good food," she said.

During the invocation, Garrison Chaplain (Col.) Ruben D. Colon offered thanks and prayers "for the welfare of others and for all those serving overseas for this nation."

"We humbly ask blessings on this tree that it become a symbol of faith and love for one another," he said.

Prior to the tree lighting Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson Jr., commander of



Hali Picciano, center, and her daughters Kara, 1, left and Lana, 2, right, receive gifts from Santa and Mrs. Claus during the Army Community Service holiday tree lighting and extravaganza at the Post Recreation Center Dec. 6.

APG and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, and Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, shared remarks.

Weissman said that it was a "great

time to celebrate the APG Family." He jokingly thanked MWR for ordering the first snow of the season for the event in regard to the previous day's snowfall and offered sincere thanks to the ACS staff, the U.S. Army Materiel

Command Band and other post organizations and corporate sponsors that supported the event.

"Without all of you, we couldn't do this," Weissman said.

See **ACS**, page 13

New program to boost Army's employment aid to spouses

Story by **GARY SHEFTICK**
 Army News Service

The Departments of Defense and Labor announced a joint program Nov. 14 to provide military spouses with resources to help find jobs, receive training and launch careers.

A two-year pilot program that begins in January will provide \$35 million in resources at 18 installations in eight states. Five of the posts that will participate in test of the "Military Spouse Career Advancement Initiative" are Army installa-

tions Fort Carson, Colo.; Fort Benning, Ga.; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Fort Lewis, Wash., and Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

"Today, we embark on a landmark program that will open the doors to our military spouses for more fulfilling careers," Secretary of Defense Robert Gates said as he announced the initiative at the Pentagon. He and Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao signed a proclamation to support the initiative.

"We understand how hard it is for Families of military men

and women who have to be ready to move anywhere in the world every couple of years," he said, adding that packing and relocating is often at the expense of spouses' careers.

Gates said moving makes it difficult for military spouses to "navigate the career licensure and certification requirements that go with most professions." He said the new program will help spouses obtain credentials for "high-growth, portable occupations" such as education, health care, information technology and financial

services.

Eligible spouses will get reimbursed for expenses directly related to post-secondary education and training under the new program. These include costs for tuition, fees, books, equipment, and credentialing and licensing fees in a number of professions. The program also covers the cost of renewing existing credentials and licenses due to a military move.

Spouses of active duty service members grades E1 through E5 and O1 to O3 will

be eligible to participate. They must have a high school or general education diploma.

Army Education Centers at the five installations testing the program will have more information about the initiative said Patricia Wells, the Army's Employment Readiness program manager at the Pentagon. She said employment readiness managers at the five installations have also received training in the initiative and will be ready to help spouses apply for the program.

See **SPOUSE**, page 13

Families first, safety always

U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

Army officials are empowering Family members to take an active role in implementing safety practices to protect their Families and loved ones returning home from deployments.

The Army recognizes that Army Families are a highly powerful group, capable of positively influencing how Soldiers and Family members think.

The Army's new Family Engagement Kit raises Families' awareness of the leading indicators in accidents while passing along the "what" and "how" of best practices. Armed with these newly created tools, Family members are afforded active involvement in their

Soldier's safety.

The U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center study of accident and associated statistics indicates when Soldiers return from a deployment or controlled environment, the rigors and oversight provided by leaders is diminished.

"Soldiers are returning from the war and then losing their lives because of vehicle and motorcycle accidents," said Overton Johnson, chief, APG Safety Office.

During fiscal years 2002 through 2007, 186 Soldiers died within one year of returning from deployments. Approximately 30 percent of the deaths occurred within the first 30 days of post-deploy-

ment and 63 percent within the first six months. Of the 186 fatalities, 145 involved privately owned vehicles during off-duty hours.

Army safety officials are convinced that oversight, control and structure are beneficial to achieve an accident-free environment. The USACRC's collective challenge is to formulate tools that target safety and risk management as a "way of life" for application when Soldiers are off duty.

"As leaders, we know that direct engagement with our Soldiers makes a positive difference in their safety," said Brig. Gen. Bill Forrester, director of Army Safety and

See **SAFETY**, page 13

Army Contracting Agency implements Wide Area Workflow

ACA APG DOC

Wide Area Workflow is an E-Commerce initiative designed to automate commercial invoices and government receiving reports into a Web-based and paperless environment.

It is the Department of Defense's standard application for the electronic processing of invoices and receiving reports.

Users of WAWF input their invoices and receiving reports into WAWF via the Internet and the information is then routed through the system utilizing the vendor's Commercial Activity Government Entity, or CAGE, code and the Government's most current Department of Defense Activity Address Code, or DoDAAC.

The Army has been working with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to implement this application for the last several years. Many organizations have had the ability to use WAWF since November 2006, but have not made significant progress in utilizing this electronic commerce tool.

The U.S. Army Test Center and the U.S. Army Medical Command coordinated with the Directorate of Contracting and are now using this process.

WAWF requires the activities' active assigned DoDAAC be included in each contract action and that the requiring activities' inspection, receiving and invoice approving personnel are registered and activated in WAWF in order for the automated processes to work.

The activity point of contact must verify the DoDAAC at <https://www.daas.dla.mil/daasing/>, but know that this procedure requires a login and password.

Requesting and receiving activities must ensure the information needed for Army electronic invoicing instructions are included on all purchase requests submitted to their contracting offices in order to utilize WAWF.

It is the requesting activities' responsibility to ensure data provided to the contracting office is current and accurate.

The information required for each purchase request must be clearly visible on it or provided as an attachment to the electronic purchase request.

A link to a form that may be used as an attachment will soon be available on the Directorate of Contracting Web site under "Full Customer Service," "Announcements and News" at <https://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/installation/contracting.asp>.

WAWF training is available online for both requiring activities and vendors at <http://wawftraining.com>.

For additional information, call Martha Mitchem, 410-278-2362.

Dressing a tree for the troops



Employees of Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic place yellow ribbons on a tree donated by the Jarrettsville Nursery as part of the Trees for Troops program Dec. 5. See article page 14.



U.S. Marine Corps News

Birthday message to all Marines

Since the birth of our nation, our liberty has been purchased by valiant men and women of deep conviction, great courage and bold action; the cost has often been in blood and tremendous sacrifice.

As America's sentinels of freedom, United States Marines are counted among the finest legions in the chronicles of war. Since 1775, Marines have marched boldly to the sounds of the guns and have fought fiercely and honorably to defeat the scourge of tyranny and terror. We are Marines - that is what we do.

In the words of President John F. Kennedy: "In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger."

Magnificent heroes fought in the wheat fields of Belleau Wood, in the snows of the Chosin and on the streets of Hue City. Your generation bears this obligation now, and it is borne on mighty and capable shoulders.

Just like the Marines at Belleau Wood - we are once again engaged in sustained operations ashore. Just like at Belleau Wood - the Marines have been given the toughest sector and have prevailed over a resilient and determined enemy - who has made us pay for our gains.

Once again, as in any struggle, the road ahead is far from certain, but as Marines, we are not dissuaded by the challenges of war or the tough conditions of a warrior's life. Indeed, we don't just accept our destiny - we shape it.

On our 232nd birthday, to every Marine - those still in uniform and those who have served honorably in the past - be proud of who you are and what you do. Know that your citizenship dues have been paid in full; you are part of this nation's elite warrior class.

Cherish our Families who offer marvelous support, abiding resolve and steadfast patience. Remember those who have served and those who have fallen - their names are chiseled on the roll call of America's heroes.

Those who have carried the battle colors of our corps have forged our heritage, and today's generation of leathernecks chart our future. Carry the colors with pride; carry them with honor. Happy birthday, Marines!

Semper fidelis,
James T. Conway
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps



Marine unit provides cyclone relief in Bangladesh

Story by
CPL PETER R. MILLER
Special to American Forces Press Service

In response to a request for help from the government of Bangladesh, elements of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit embarked aboard USS Kearsarge, traveled about 3,500 miles from the Sea of Bengal and are providing disaster relief to the cyclone-stricken country.

On Nov. 15, Tropical Cyclone Sidr ripped across the coast of Bangladesh, killing more than 3,000 people, leaving several hundred thousand people homeless and ravaging the local crops and infrastructure.

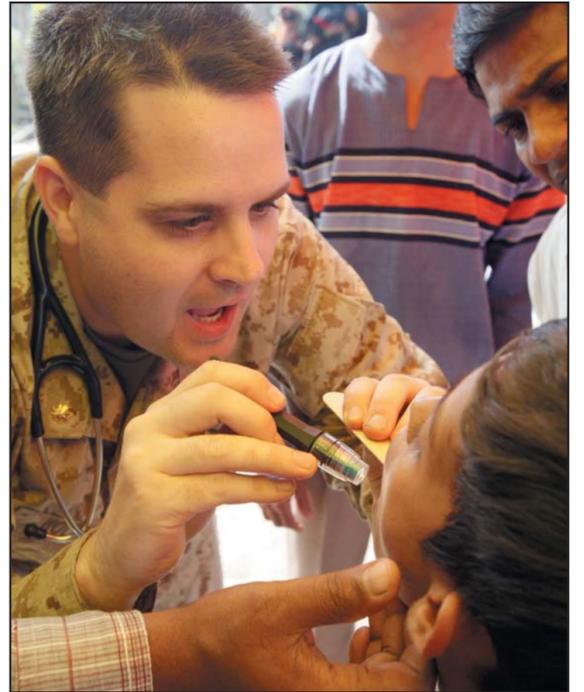
On Nov. 23, the MEU's relief effort began with the delivery of 700 gallons of bottled water to a small airfield in Barisal, Bangladesh.

"Today's mission was essentially a humanitarian assistance, disaster relief mission to start providing the necessary materials," said Capt. Andrew M. Traynor, a CH-46E Sea Knight pilot with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 261, who flew in the day's mission.

As the helicopters hovered over the airfield, children clad in colorful clothing watched and waved from a nearby roadside. Bangladeshi soldiers lined the tarmac until a Marine greeted them and led them back to the aircraft.

"We got out there and said, 'Hey, this is what we need.'" the Marine said. "I think they were just hesitant to jump right in because they didn't want to offend us."

The wary stares of the Bangladeshi soldiers quickly evolved into friendly embraces as they crowded around the rear of the aircraft to shake



Lt. Cmdr. Trey Hollis, a Nashville, Tenn., native and chief surgeon of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) Command Element, renders medical aid to a victim of Tropical Cyclone Sidr, South Khali, Bangladesh, Nov. 28. The USS Kearsarge (LHD-3) and the 22nd MEU are providing humanitarian aid at the request of the Bangladesh government to the victims of Tropical Cyclone Sidr, which tore through Bangladesh Nov. 15.

hands and chat with their visitors. They were soon working with the Marines to unload the water.

"We worked together, and the language barrier wasn't a problem," Traynor said. "The offload went very smoothly and quickly. It's all about the team, because that's how we work."

The crew chiefs did an excellent job by taking the lead and getting the water out of the aircraft, Traynor said.

"It was pretty cool," said Sgt. Mickael S. Clemann, a CH-46 crew chief, and Brandon,

Fla., native. "A lot of the (Bangladeshi) soldiers smiled and showed what I'm guessing is their gesture of thank you, where they put their hand on their chest and bring it toward you."

The sight of two militaries, unfamiliar with each other, coming together was one of the most impressive things this Marine had ever seen, he said.

"It was good to see those guys with smiles on their faces, even though they've lost some of their countrymen," the Marine said. "It's good to be able to help them out."



Photo by STAFF SGT DUANE BREMILLER

Gunnery Sgt. Todd McMahon reads the U.S. Marine Corps commandant's birthday message (see article above) at the Marines' 232nd Birthday Ball at Top of the Bay Nov 10. Other Marines pictured include from left, Sgts. Richard Lentz and Bradley Rollins.

Marines celebrate 232 years

OC&S Marine Corps Detachment

In the early morning of Nov. 9, the commanding officer of the U.S. Marine Corps Detachment, Aberdeen Proving Ground, led more than 240 Marines on a "boots and utes" (camouflage utility bottoms and combat boots) run, in early celebration of the 232nd Marine Corps birthday.

Although a cool 36 degrees, spirits were high as the detachment, commander Maj. Steven Skirnick, and the Marine Corps colors, stepped off at approximately 5:30 a.m. as senior staff noncommissioned officers shouted cadences throughout the run.

As the detachment rounded Ordnance Circle, echoes of screaming Marines could be heard throughout post...

"C-130 rolling down the strip.

Marine Corps daddy going to take a little trip.

Stand up, hook up, shuffle to the door.

Jump right out and count to four."

Later that evening, more than 200 Marines and guests joined Skirnick and guest of honor Sgt. Adam Richey in a cake cutting ceremony, dinner and entertainment to celebrate the Corps' 232nd birthday at Top of the Bay. Richey, a small arms repairman instructor, was wounded while serving in Afghanistan.

He was selected to be our guest speaker because he exemplifies "every Marine a rifleman," according to Capt. Gerald D. Habiger,

executive officer, Marine Corps Detachment.

The following evening, more than 280 Marines celebrated their birthday with a formal birthday ball at Top of the Bay. Guest of honor and speaker Master Gunnery Sgt. David Ames from the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force, located at Camp Lejeune, N.C., and ordnance chief, with almost 30 years in the Marine Corps, addressed the attendees about celebration, commitment and rededication.

"Being prepared to answer the call at all times" is what being a Marine is all about, he said.

After the pageantry of opening ceremonies, a cake cutting, dinner and dancing filled the evening's entertainment.

During the traditional passing of cake from the oldest to the youngest marine present, Maureen Stoddard passed a piece of cake to Lance Cpl. Eric Coleman.

Guests enjoyed the camaraderie of the event.

"To sum it up in one word: Outstanding," said Cpl. David Mckee.

"This year's birthday ball was a great celebration of all Marine Corps accomplishments, past and present," said Chief Warrant Officer Johnny Gossett.

Others comments mentioned included "a wonderful evening," and "the best Marine Corps event of the year."



Lt. Cmdr. Lou C. Cimorelli, of Doylestown, Pa., a family practice physician and ward officer aboard USS Kearsarge (LHD 3), renders medical aid to a victim of Tropical Cyclone Sidr, South Khali, Bangladesh, Nov. 28. Kearsarge and the embarked elements of the 22nd MEU arrived off the coast of Bangladesh, Nov. 23, to support ongoing relief efforts at the request of the Bangladesh government.

Re-enlist for composite score points

Story by
STAFF SGT KIMBERLY LEONE
MCAS Miramar

Headquarters Marine Corps has added 60 reasons for first-term active duty Marines to consider re-enlistment.

Effective Oct. 1, qualifying lance corporals and corporals who re-enlist for 48 months could rate 60 bonus points for their composite score.

The change retroactively impacts Marines who re-enlisted prior to Oct. 1, 2007.

Those Marines who qualify will see the bonus points on their composite score for the fiscal year 2008 second quarter composite score calculations.

Marines like Cpl. Brandy Petty, an air traffic controller in Germany, looking to re-enlist soon, sees the bonus points as an awesome incentive.

"This gives a little push to the next rank," Petty said. "It's a great way to reward Marines who choose to stay in the Marine Corps."

The bonus points will raise Petty's composite score to more than 1,600, putting her just above the six-month average cutting score for sergeants in her MOS, 1591.

Composite score bonus points generated by recruiters assistance and re-enlistment cannot contribute more than 160 points to a Marine's cutting score.

For Marines receiving the points retroactively, the date of action is Oct. 1, 2007. Those re-enlisting after Oct. 1, 2007 will have an action date based on their date of re-enlistment.

The changes do not apply to Marines serving on reserve duty.

APG News

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21005-5001; call the editor at 410-278-1150, DSN 298-1150; send a fax to 410-278-2570; or send e-mail to editor@apg.army.mil.

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Local VFW supports 20th SUPCOM (CBRNE) Soldiers in Iraq



Annette Merritt, left and Sue Elliott, both life members at VFW Post 5337 in Abingdon, bag Christmas decorations and other goodies in boxes bound for deployed Soldiers of the 20th Support Command (CBRNE) Nov. 27.

Story and photo by
JONI PLATT
U.S. Army 20th Support Command
(CBRNE)

Deployed Soldiers from the 20th Support Command (CBRNE) and other units will receive a welcome surprise this Christmas when boxes stuffed with goodies by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5337 in Abingdon arrive in Iraq.

On Nov. 27, VFW Post 5337 members, Ladies Auxiliary and volunteers spent the evening at the VFW on Pulaski Highway filling 60 boxes with miniature Christmas trees, tiny ornaments and homemade cookies in addition to the usual necessities cov-

eted by deployed Soldiers.

For the past several years men and women from VFW Post 5337 have supported 20th SUPCOM (CBRNE) Soldiers deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism by mailing care packages to Iraq every six to eight weeks.

Items going in the boxes are selected depending on the mission and the time of the year. Valued at approximately \$100 each, VFW Post 5337 has already mailed more than 375 boxes this year.

Doug MacArthur is the commander of VFW Post 5337, and his love for the troops is apparent in every-

thing he says and does. While he helps organize all Post 5337 events and puts in endless hours of volunteer work, he gives most of the credit for the care packages to his wife, the Ladies Auxiliary president, and the other members of the Ladies Auxiliary.

"My wife, Linda, and all the ladies are really the ones who make it all happen; from orga-

nizing fundraisers and baking cookies to filling out shipping forms for the boxes. They're the real heroes," MacArthur said.

"Supporting our troops is an ongoing process," MacArthur added. "This year we supplemented our packages through a Buddy Poppy Campaign, which we held on APG. Many thanks to the patrons for their generous donations."

Evelyn Lewis, a member of the Ladies Auxiliary, has been volunteering for the post for the past three years. Both she and her husband are life-members of the post.

"This is our country, and because it's our country, we need to take care of it and do our share or it won't be ours for long," Lewis said.

There are approximately 271 members in VFW Post 5337 and 168 members of the Ladies Auxiliary. In order to be a member of the VFW, one must be on active duty or a member of the military who served in a combat zone.

Col. Barry Lowe, deputy commanding officer of the 20th SUPCOM (CBRNE), is a life-member of Post 5337 and has repeatedly volunteered as a guest speaker for several of the post's main events in the past three years.

"Barry does a lot more than what he takes credit for," MacArthur said. "He's our

main guest speaker and has stepped up to the plate many, many times. He is good for our community and will be greatly missed when he leaves APG next year."

VFWs nationwide are able to provide such outstanding support to Soldiers and the local community through the Military Assistance Program. MAP offers a wide variety of assistance to the troops and their Families on and surrounding military installations. MAP is part of VFWs obligation to assist members

of the active duty military, National Guard and Reserves, as well as their Families.

A few examples of the services offered by MAP are Operation Uplink, which provides pre-paid phone cards to troops when serving on foreign soil, the Adopt-a-Unit program and the Unmet Needs program.

VFW Post 5337 will be sending out more boxes to deployed Soldiers in January. Anyone who would like to volunteer or donate items can call MacArthur, 410-676-4456.

Visit APG News
online at
www.apgnews.apg.army.mil

APG honors Native American Indian Heritage month

Story by
JANE GERVASONI
CHPPM

Stark Recreation Center in APG South was filled with sounds of flutes, jingle dancing and storytelling. Delicious smells of Native American Indian frybread and tacos wafted through the air. The sounds and smells were all part of "Honoring Warriors Past and Present," the theme of the Aberdeen Proving Ground garrison's Nov. 27 program honoring Native American Indian Heritage Month.

The program was co-spon-

sored by the garrison, the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command.

According to a proclamation issued by President George W. Bush, "Native American Indian Heritage Month is an opportunity to honor the many contributions of American Indians and Alaska Natives and to recognize the strong and living traditions of the first people to call our land home."

Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson Jr., commanding general

of RDECOM and APG, welcomed attendees and spoke about Army Spc. Lori Piestewa, a member of the Hopi tribe and the first service woman killed in action in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Robinson continued by saying that each ethnic group brings special qualities and enhances the military.

Attendees were entertained by the storytelling talents of Raggatha Rain Tsesuna Rayning Tears Calentine, daughter of a Cherokee Indian from North Carolina, who says her stories represent a way to share knowledge and to have people reflect

about their current paths.

Robinson also presented awards to the winners of the Native American Heritage Month essay and display contests.

The first place essay award was presented to Maj. Thomas Barnard from APG Garrison and the second place prize was awarded to Gloria Scott, Brigade S-4.

Charles Wilson accepted the first place award in the display category, awarded to the General Dynamics Information Technology Office. Second place in the display contest went to the Basic Non-commissioned Officer Course Class members from the 01-08 63B class.

The winning displays and essays were available for viewing at the Stark Recreation Center during the celebration.

The guest speaker was Boe Harris-Nakakakena of Ojibwe/Chippewa and Dakota heritage. She is a northern traditional and jingle-dress dancer who also plays the traditional native flute. This talented individual has, as she described it, "shared her ministry of dance and music" from state fairs to the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. She has also traveled to Europe and the Mediterranean, dancing at mil-



Photo by JANE GERVASONI, CHPPM
Boe Harris-Nakakakena, native dancer and flautist, and Col. Colleen Shull, commander, USAPG Dental Clinic, examine the tribute to fallen Soldiers displayed at the Native American Heritage Program Nov. 27.

itary bases and schools. She said she believes that part of her mission is to keep alive the traditions of her people.

Attendees commented favorably on the interesting and informative program.

"I loved the costumes," said Spc. Amanda Housel of the 1st Army Medical Lab.

"This was all beautifully done and had a lot of information," added her co-worker Spc. Victoria Simmons.

Besides the entertainment, Native American foods were available to sample provid-

ed by Ruby Olsen, a member of the Haliwa-Saponi tribe of Hollister, N.C., and her family. She provided traditional frybread served at pow-wows around the nation and Native American Indian tacos.

"So much for my diet," complained Staff Sgt. Wendy Spohn, equal opportunity representative from the U.S. Army Material Command Band at APG.

In addition to the entertainment and food, there were many exhibits of Native American artifacts, edible plants, and archeological demonstrations.

Community Notes

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 15 HOLIDAY PRIZE BINGO AND DINNER

VFW Post 8185, located on Route 222, Port Deposit, will hold a Holiday Prize Bingo and Dinner, 6 p.m. Doors open 5 p.m.; Bingo starts 7 p.m. Cost of Bingo and dinner is \$15 and includes paper packet for 20 games and spaghetti dinner. Extra packs cost \$5. Tickets for children ages 6 and under cost \$10 for a single card pack – no extra packs. Early birds purchase tickets separately at 6:45 p.m. Tickets are available at the door. Door prizes, refreshments, raffles and more will be available. Proceeds to benefit Krafty Survivors Relay for Life.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call VFW Post 8185, 410-642-9297, 410-658-5628 or 410-378-3338.

WINTER TREE MYSTERY

Hike the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center's trails and use clues to identify common trees. The program will be held 11 a.m. to noon for ages 6 to adult and is free. Registration is required.

For more information, to register or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

SUNDAY

DECEMBER 16 DISCOVERY WALK

Join a naturalist on a nature walk to discover what creeps, crawls and flies around Leight Park. This program begins at 10:30 a.m. and is free for all ages. No registration required.

For more information or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

ALL TIED UP

Have fun with basic knot tying. Scouts may find this useful. The program will be held 3 to 4 p.m. for ages 8 to adult and is free. Registration is required.

For more information, to register or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

YOUTH MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The House of Resurrection in Jesus Christ, located on 1915 N. Singer Road, Joppa, will hold a Youth Ministry Christmas Program, 4:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, call Denise Corbett, 410-436-5157.

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

Grove Presbyterian Church located on 50 East Bel Air Avenue, Aberdeen, invites everyone to attend Sounds of the Season, 5 p.m.

The Grove Chancel Choir will perform a Christmas cantata and A Joyful Noise in the Grove will play Christmas music using handbells. A reception with light refreshments will follow.

A MUSICAL FOR CHRISTMAS

The Edgewood Baptist Church Choir invites everyone to attend "On This Very Night," a Musical for Christmas, 7 p.m., at Edgewood Baptist Church located on 422 Edgewood Road. Come and celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. The concert is free.

For more information, call 410-676-5838.

MONDAY

DECEMBER 17 TOASTMASTERS MEETING

Gunpowder Toastmasters Club 2562 will meet 11:40 a.m. at the Gunpowder Club, building E-4650, Parish Road in APG South. The club is open to anyone on or off post who wants to improve communication, leadership and listening

skills and overcome the fear of speaking in public.

For more information, call Len Kolodny, 410-734-6573.

WEDNESDAY

DECEMBER 19 WEDNESDAY WEE WONDERS IN WINTER

Join the naturalist and her wee one to explore the wintry world through stories, songs, live animals and outdoor exploration.

The program will be held 10 to 11 a.m. for ages 1 to 4 and is free. Registration is required.

For more information, to register or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 22 CRITTER DINNERTIME

Come watch turtles, fish and snakes eat and learn more about these fascinating creatures. The program begins 10:30 a.m. and is free for all ages. No registration required.

For more information or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

SUNDAY

DECEMBER 23 A MUSICAL FOR CHRISTMAS

The Edgewood Baptist Church Choir invites everyone to attend "On This Very Night," a Musical for Christmas, 10:45 a.m., at Edgewood Baptist Church located on 422 Edgewood Road. Come and celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. The concert is free.

For more information, call 410-676-5838.

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 29 BEADED SNOWFLAKES

Create magical beaded snowflakes that glisten and shine. Warm up with hot cocoa and music while making special gems to make winter decor that sparkles. The program will be held

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for ages 12 to adult. Cost is \$8 per person. Registration is required.

For more information, to register or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

SUNDAY

DECEMBER 30 MEET A CRITTER

Check out one of the live critters up close while discovering what makes that animal special.

The program begins at 1 p.m. and is free for all ages. No registration required.

For more information or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

(Editors Note: More calendar events can be seen at www.apgnews.apg.army.mil under Community Notes.)

APG NCOA assists Hall's Cross Roads Elementary in makeover

NCOA

The Hall's Cross Roads Elementary School administration and lead custodian worked to plant approximately 40 trees outside the school Oct. 13.

Members of the community, the Harford County Parks and Recreation along with Class 002-08 Noncommissioned Officer Academy under the direction of 1st Sgt. Tracy Rosebrock assisted with planting the trees.

"The event is part of an extreme makeover being done to the current playground facilities," Rosebrock said.

The playground project includes primary and intermediate playground equipment, a half-mile walking trail, a new marquee and several sports fields.

Rosebrock said that the students said that they enjoyed working on the project, had fun and felt good being part of a community project.

"The NCO Academy will definitely be available to assist



Photo courtesy of NCOA

Volunteers from the Aberdeen Proving Ground Noncommissioned Officer Academy assist the Hall's Cross Roads Elementary School staff plant trees along the new walking trail. From left, Reginald Perry, Hall's Crossroads Elementary School assistant principal; Staff Sgt. Earl D. Babcock and Sgts. 1st Class John A. Herrera-Tamez and Ava L. Lampley.

the Hall's Cross Roads School if they need assistance in the future," he said.

The final project is expected to be completed sometime in the spring.

Chapel News

Commentary: Celebrating the holidays in a free country

By
CHAPLAIN (MAJ) ROBERT LEATHERS
61st Ordnance Brigade

Thank God we live in a country of religious freedom. Americans across this country will take off work near the end of December and call it Christmas, Holiday, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and probably a host of other things I am not aware of.

Each Family is 'free' to celebrate as they choose and the rest of us must be grown up adults, acknowledge freedom for others, and enjoy the season.

This will be my second Christ-

mas home with my Family after being deployed two Christmases in a row. Just being home makes everything special.

There are no presents I want, no parties I long for, no trips that need to be made. I simply just want to look into the eyes of my wife and kids knowing that they are safe and with me.

Sorry, big retail stores, but Christmas is not about you. It's about me and my Family celebrating the birth of our savior "together."

Why am I saying these things? Let me share my Christmas with you from 2005.

December 25, 2005, Baghdad,

Iraq: Spc. Anthony Cardinal arrived at the Baghdad ER hospital 12:30 p.m. as a VSI patient (very serious injury) from battle. He is preceded one hour by an Iraqi Army soldier with multiple gunshot wounds; also listed as VSI for battle injuries. The Iraqi soldier would die within minutes of arriving at the hospital.

I had just assisted with the remains of the host nation Soldier when Cardinal arrived. One hour and 24 minutes later, after prayer and much care, I would watch Cardinal die.

The impact on our staff's just can't be put into words. Two Families would receive the worst news of their

lives on Christmas day.

Forgive me if sharing this disturbed you. I was asked to write a holiday greeting for the newspaper. This is the first time I have been asked to do this since I've returned from Iraq.

I just don't see the holidays the way people want me to anymore. I now see them as a time that should be about Family and not department stores, gifts and food.

For me, it is celebrating the birth of my savior with the ones I love. Good relationships are the key to the most successful Christmas/holiday seasons.

My challenge for each of you this

year is to renew your relationships. Instead of giving someone a gift, purchased at a store, give them a part of you. Give them your time and love. Perhaps, you could just sit and actively listen to someone you love – really get to know them. Now that would be a gift and a memory.

Spend time with your Family and friends. Renew relationships as best you can. Say "I'm sorry" if needed. If you are dealing with personal problems that prevent you from reconnecting with the ones you love, be a man/woman and get help.

God bless you; grow in your faith and Family.

Commentary: In short, the miracle of Christmas

By
CHAPLAIN (COL) RUBEN D. COLON
Installation Chaplain, APG

Thank God for the miracle of Christmas day.

A daughter, back home from

college for Christmas vacation, was standing with her mother at the checkout counter of a discount department store. Her mother had selected a toy for the dog, an artificial wreath for the door and a package of

"logs" for the fire place.

"Do you realize what you're doing?" the daughter asked. "You are buying a fake bone, a fake wreath and some fake logs."

And, as the mother presented the clerk with a credit card, the daughter added, "But that's all right because you're paying for them with plastic money."

The wonderful thing about our Christmas awareness is that everything takes on new meaning -- even the fake logs and the plastic money.

We can see the Christ presence in every sparkling ornament on every tree; in every flicker of every candle; in every sprig of holly; in every red poinsettia bloom; in every note of beautiful Christmas music; in every "Merry Christmas" wish; in every pair of hands offering and receiving gifts.

And together now, as brothers and sisters in Christ, we can see him in every blessed moment of the Christmas experience.

Holy Days worship services

An Ecumenical celebration will be held 5:30 p.m., Dec. 15, at the APG South Chapel. Events include supper, 5:30 p.m.; procession and caroling, 6:30 p.m.; Post Stable Nativity reading, 7 p.m.; and a hot chocolate social, 7:45 p.m.

APG North Chapel			APG South Chapel		
Catholic					
Dec. 16	Advent mass	8:45 a.m.	Dec. 16	Advent mass	10:45 a.m.
Dec. 23	Advent mass	8:45 a.m.	Dec. 23	Advent mass	10:45 a.m.
Dec. 24	Vigil mass	6 p.m.	Dec. 25	Christmas mass	10:45 a.m.
Dec. 25	Christmas mass	8:45 a.m.	Dec. 30	Holy Family mass	10:45 a.m.
Dec. 30	Holy Family mass	6 p.m.	Jan. 1	Holy Day mass	10:45 a.m.
Dec. 31	Vigil mass	6 p.m.	Protestant		
Protestant			Dec. 16	Advent worship	9:15 a.m.
Dec. 16	Advent worship	10:15 a.m.	Dec. 23	Advent worship	9:15 a.m.
Dec. 23	Worship	10:15 a.m.	Dec. 24	Christmas Eve candlelight service	8 p.m.
Dec. 30	Worship	10:15 a.m.	Dec. 30	Worship	9:15 a.m.
Gospel					
Dec. 16	Worship	noon			
Dec. 23	Christmas worship	noon			
Dec. 25	No service				

Nativity scene exhibition at APG North Chapel

The APG Catholic Religious Education Program personnel will sponsor a Nativity scene exhibition, 3 to 5 p.m., Dec. 16, at the APG North Chapel Fellowship Hall. Everyone is encouraged to bring and display their nativity set for the exhibition. Exhibitors can set up at 2:30 p.m. There will be refreshments and a short program will be held. Everyone is invited to see the exhibition with sets from many different countries.

For more information or to sign up, call Olivia Wheaton or Gerri Merkel, 410-278-2516.

POST SHORTS

APG Railroad Club open house

The Model Railroad Club, building E-5173 on Webster Road in APG South, will be open to visitors, 7 to 9 p.m., each Thursday in December. The HO scale model railroad display simulates railroad operations as they occurred in the 1960s with a variety of freight and passenger trains connecting eastern U.S. cities.

Santa visits post housing

Santa Claus will visit housing residents in APG North, 4 p.m., Dec. 23.

Garrison and Deputy Installation Commander Col. Jeffrey Weissman and Command Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez will join Santa and hand out coloring books.

Ordnance Museum announces holiday schedule

The U.S. Army Ordnance Museum will be closed Dec. 24, 25, 29 thru 31 and Jan.

1. Due to minimum staffing, there may be a need to open late or close early Dec. 26 thru 28. For more information, call 410-278-2396/3602.

'Retired Federal Employees' meets Dec. 18

Susquehanna Chapter 1522 of National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association for Harford and Cecil Counties will meet 11 a.m., Dec. 18, at the Bayou Restaurant, Route 40, Havre de Grace. Social time will be 11 a.m. to noon; noon to 1:15 p.m., buffet; 1:15 to 1:30 p.m., announcements; 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. will be entertainment and sing-a-long. Reservations are required.

For more information or for reservations, call 410-939-3973.

Education Center conducts in-process briefings

The APG Education Center, located in building 4305, second floor, room 213-B, will conduct a monthly in-process briefing for

Soldiers within their first 30 days of assignment to APG. The briefings take place 8 to 9 a.m. on the last Monday of each month and are designed to inform Soldiers, enlisted and officers, of programs and services available to meet the requirements of their educational goals and plans. The briefing also will provide information to help establish or recertify the Soldier's long/short-term education goals.

For more information, call Tressie Stout, 410-306-2042.

CPR and AED classes available

Beginning January 2008, the Aberdeen Proving Ground Fire and Emergency Service will offer CPR and automated external defibrillator classes in APG North and South.

Two classes will be held 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., the third Wednesday of each month.

In APG South, classes will be held at the Gunpowder Club, building E-4650 in the Osprey Room, on Feb. 20, April 16, June 18, Aug. 20, Oct. 15 and Dec. 17.

In APG North, classes will be held at the Post Theater, on Jan. 16, March 19, May 22, July 16, Sept. 17 and Nov. 19.

Class size will be limited to 30 participants and will be filled on a first-come-first-serve basis. Pre-Registration will be required.

For more information or to register, call Raymond Campbell, 410-306-0566, or e-mail Ray.Campbell@apg.army.mil.

NCO Academy 8th Annual Anniversary Dining Out

The Noncommissioned Officer Academy will hold its 8th Annual Anniversary Dining Out Feb. 29 at Top of the Bay. The evening will honor past NCOA commandants from 1987 to present.

Tickets cost \$35. Call to make a reservation by Feb. 25.

For more information or to RSVP, call Sgt. 1st Class Francis Cruz, 410-278-9129 or e-mail francis.cruz@apg.army.mil or lilly.dillon@apg.army.mil.

(Editors Note: More Shorts can be seen at www.apgnews.apg.army.mil under Shorts.)



Preventing substance abuse on APG

ASAP recognizes National Drunk, Drugged Drinking month

Using a designated driver is always the right answer

ASAP

Understanding the impact of alcohol and other drugs on a person's ability to operate a vehicle is extremely important.

"Most people understand the basics of alcohol and driving but don't give a second thought to driving when they are under the influence of other drugs, prescriptions, and over-the-counter medications," said Cindy Scott, ASAP prevention coordinator. "The impact can be deadly. To recognize National Drunk, Drugged Drinking, or 3D month, throughout this holiday season ASAP and the *APG News* will team up to provide you factual information, helpful tips and even some non-alcoholic recipes."

How Alcohol, drugs really driving

Alcohol (beer, wine, whiskey, gin, rum, vodka, tequila, etc.)

- Dulls judgment and concentration
- Slows reflexes and reaction time
- Leads to multiple, blurred and restricted side and night vision

- Hinders muscle control and coordination
- Exaggerates emotions
- Increases drowsiness

Alcohol plus Marijuana (Any alcoholic beverage and pot, hash or T.H.C.)

In addition to the effects of alcohol:

- Dulls concentration and reasoning abilities
- Slows reaction time
- Leads to multiple vision and slowed glare recovery time
- Hinders muscle control coordination, maneuvering ability and ability to recognize traffic signals
- Affects short term memory and tracking ability
- Increases distraction and drowsiness

Alcohol plus Antihistamines (Any alcoholic beverage and cold remedies such as Sudafed, Coricidin)

In addition to the effects of alcohol:

- Dulls judgment and concentration

- Slows reaction time
- Leads to reduced vision
- Hinders coordination
- Increases drowsiness, confusion, and anxiety

Alcohol plus Tranquilizers (Any alcoholic beverage and sleep medication such as Valium, Librium, Seconal, etc.)

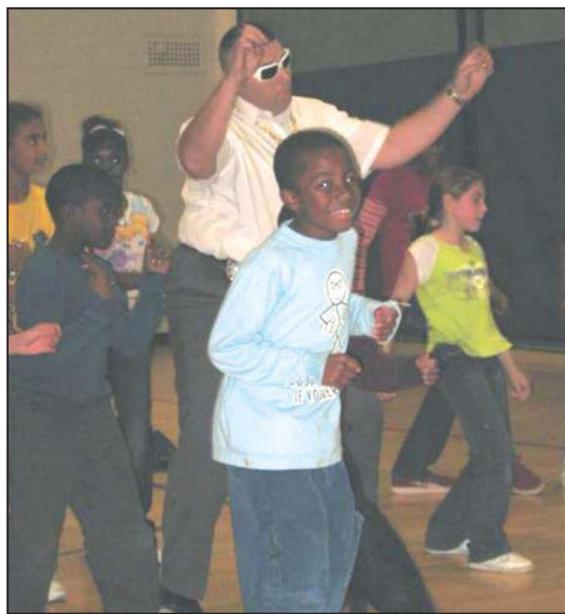
In addition to the effects of alcohol:

- Dulls judgment and concentration
- Slows reflexes and reaction time
- Leads to multiple, blurred and restricted side and night vision
- Hinders coordination and motor skills
- Increases drowsiness

Remember the ASAP motto, "If you drink, don't drive and if you drive, don't drink."

For more ASAP information contact Cindy Scott, 410-278-DRUG or e-mail Cynthia.Scott1@us.army.mil.

D.A.R.E. Dance Program on APG 'a huge success'



D.A.R.E. Officer Detective "Big Mike" Farlow shows off his hip-hop moves dancing the "Soulja Boy" with Aberdeen Proving Ground Youth centers' D.A.R.E. dancers from left Bronte Goldsmith, Joshua Sheppard, Brooks Shaw, Tony Cruz, Victoria Cruz, and Tori McDaniel.

Story and photo by
KAREN W. FARLOW
Special contributor

"Dancing with the Stars" has become one of television's most popular shows these days. In keeping with the current trends, the Aberdeen Proving Ground Youth Center hosted the first ever D.A.R.E. Dance Program Nov. 29 in the gym of the Youth Center.

Twenty of APG's own stars performed for a packed house. The students were children from both APG North and APG South Youth centers who showed an interest in dance.

The D.A.R.E. Dance program provides an opportunity for children to learn different forms of dance as an alternative to drugs and violence. The

program was taught by professional dancers from the Clancy Dance Works Studio in Silver Spring, Md. Dance instructor Anthony Femath and Christina Klonowski traveled nearly 2 hours each day to make the program possible.

"After many hours of hard work, the students put everything that they learned together to provide an awesome hip hop dance routine for the crowd," Femath said.

He addressed the audience and encouraged Families and friends to participate in the student warm ups and fun dance activities prior to the main event.

After the warm ups and Family fun, came one of the highlights of the evening. D.A.R.E. Officer, Detective

Mike Farlow, known affectionately to his students as "Big Mike" explained to the audience that to encourage program participation he had promised to do the, "Soulja Boy dance" at the recital, if enough students signed up. To keep his promise he placed a gold money chain around his neck, white sunglasses on his face and a fake "Grill" in his mouth and along with the help of his students and the D.A.R.E. dancers, entertained the crowd.

The final dance of the evening was performed by the students, who incorporated different styles of dance into a very energetic choreographed performance. Upon the completion of the program, "Big Mike" presented the D.A.R.E. dance instructors and Youth Center coordinators, Katie Knoph and Angie Chronister, with special certificates of appreciation from the APG Police Department. Then each student received a special D.A.R.E. dance shirt, certificate and the opportunity to apply for a dance scholarship with a nationally accredited dance studio.

Overall the program was a huge success and plans to have a summer dance program are already in the works, Farlow said. The D.A.R.E. program is in its third year at APG and continues to grow with fun activities like D.A.R.E. Dance, he said.

This year in addition to teaching the children at the Child Development Center and Youth Center, "Big Mike" said he will be teaching middle school students as well.

"Each year we add something to the program which makes it even better than the

year before," Farlow said. "I love teaching the kids, and from the response of the students and their parents, the message is getting across."

When he heard about the D.A.R.E. Dance program from a fellow DARE Officer, Farlow said he knew he had to bring it to APG.

"Without the support of our Army Family on APG (just to mention a few, the Garrison commander and staff, the Youth Center staff, Army Substance Abuse Program, Military and Civilian Spouses' Club, the APG Thrift Ship and APG Federal Credit Union), the D.A.R.E. Program would be in jeopardy," Farlow said. However, because of our Army Family on APG, the Community Policing Program which sustains D.A.R.E. is a success."

Anyone interested in the D.A.R.E. Program or would like more information on community policing endeavors; contact Farlow, 410-278-3609.

Preventing crime during the holidays

Put safety on shopping list

DSHE

Holiday fever is in the air. As people shop for that perfect gift, bake Christmas cookies, attend parties, exchange gifts, and visit family and friends, their minds are focused on the pleasures and joys of the season.

While most are focusing on the happier side of things, criminals are focusing on how to take advantage of shoppers any way that they can.

During this holiday season the Directorates of Safety, Health and Environment and Law Enforcement and Security would like everyone to "Think Safety" while shopping during the holidays to help prevent becoming the victim of a crime.

Safety shopping list

Limit the amount of cash being carried while shopping. A credit card can be tracked or canceled, if stolen.

"Watch your back. As you are shopping during this holiday season always be aware of your surroundings," said Overton Johnson, chief, DSHE Safety Office.

If carrying a purse, carry it on the inside of the arm, on the side that is farthest from the street.

Let someone know shopper's destination and expected time of return. Shopping with a friend is a relaxing and fun way to increase personal safety.

Park in a well lit area.

If using valet parking, separate vehicle keys from home and business keys; remove and take electronic garage door opener (the opener's code can be easily copied and the registration has a home address).

Avoid known trouble spots. Sometimes it's better to avoid after-work shopping trips until the weekend to shop in daylight.

"Shoulder surfing" is a common practice criminals will use to steal credit card numbers and identity. They have also been known to use cell phone cameras to photograph and record credit card transactions for their use later.

Take gifts to the car throughout the day instead of making one overloaded trip at the end of the shopping day.

"Never leave packages inside your vehicle where they may be seen by others," Johnson said.

Store packages out of site preferably in the trunk of the car. Always lock the vehicle, have keys ready when approaching the vehicle and check in and around the vehicle for anyone that could be waiting to take advantage.

Anyone who thinks they are being followed while walking, should find a security guard or store manager and advise him or her of their concerns; and



use a mobile telephone to notify police. Many stores and shopping malls employ off-duty police officers during the holidays to increase patron safety.

"If you happen to encounter someone near your vehicle, do not hesitate to contact the store security officer," said Detective Mike Farlow, of the Investigative Services Division, DLES.

If accosted by a robber, remain calm and give up the property that the robber wants. Nothing being carried is worth risking a life.

Anyone who suspects that they are being followed while driving, should proceed to the local police station or to a well-lighted, populated area and use a mobile telephone to call police.

Consider shopping on military installations whenever possible. Commissaries carry everything anyone could wish for in planning holiday meals and snacks. The exchanges have a wealth of products suitable as gifts for anyone in the Family.

Protecting while traveling

"Criminals aren't only at the malls in shopping centers, so you will need to make sure your home does not become an easy target," Farlow said.

Always lock doors and windows, even when at home. Leave a light and radio or television on to give the appearance that someone is home. Appliance timers also work well.

Limit the amount of gifts that are visible from windows and doors which could be an enticement to a criminal.

Stop mail and paper deliveries if the house will be empty for the holidays.

If planning holiday travel, it's best to keep those holiday travel plans quiet. Only persons having a need to know should be informed of your plans. There will be plenty of time to show the pictures and tell folks of the wonderful time after returning. Friends would never steal anything, but what about others who might overhear the plans?

Ideally, consider placing

jewelry and important documents, including a backup of any files on a PC, in a safe location such as a safety deposit box at the bank. Valuables and firearms should be out of view and locked away. A home safe is a good investment for this purpose.

"For those of you who will be taking trips home for the holidays, the APG Police would like to remind you about the "House Watch" program," Farlow said. "Just stop by the Police Station and complete a house watch form, and your house will be placed on a special security check list. While you are away enjoying your time with family and friends, your mind will be at ease knowing that the police will be keeping an eye on your house and will notify you of any problems.

"This program has been very successful and is just one example of how the police officers here at APG really care about the community they serve," Farlow said.

When returning home, do a quick check around the exterior of the house to see if everything is in order. If something looks out of place, go to a neighbor and call the police.

"It has been said that you will not care how much someone knows until you know how much someone cares. Keeping that in mind, Community Awareness Requires Everyone, or C.A.R.E., is the APG Community Policing motto, so please report any suspicious activity to the police immediately. You are our eyes and ears," Farlow said.

"Remember the smart shopper is a shopper who thinks safety," Johnson said.

For more information about crime prevention throughout the holiday season, contact the Community Policing/Crime Prevention Unit, 410-273-6412.

(Editor's note: Some information was taken from Defense Commissary Agency press release, "Put safety on shopping list for holiday season," by Friedrich Stein.)

Being prepared before the winter storm strikes--at home, work

National Weather Service

Winter storms give pause to ask "Am I prepared for a winter storm that could leave me stranded?"

The National Weather Service provides helpful tips to make preparations at home and on the road.

Primary concerns are loss of heat, power and telephone service and a shortage of supplies if storm conditions continue for more than a day.

Have available:

- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- Battery-powered National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio and portable radio to receive emergency information. These may be the only links to the outside.
- Extra food and water. Have high energy food, such as dried fruit, nuts and granola bars, and food requiring no cooking or refrigeration.
- Extra medicine and baby items.
- First-aid supplies.
- Heating fuel. Refuel before the tank goes empty. Fuel carriers may not reach homes for days after a winter storm.
- Emergency heat source: fireplace, wood stove, space heater. Use properly to prevent a fire. Ventilate properly.
- Fire extinguisher, smoke alarm. Test smoke alarms once a month to ensure they work properly.
- Make sure pets have plenty of food, water and shelter.

In vehicles

- Plan travel and check the latest weather reports to avoid the storm.
- Fully check and winterize the vehicle before the winter season begins.
- Carry a winter storm survival kit that includes a mobile phone, charger, batteries, blankets/sleeping bags, flashlight with extra batteries, first-aid kit, knife, high-calorie, non-perishable food, extra clothing to keep dry, a large empty can to use as an emergency toilet with tissues and paper towels for sanitary purposes, a small can and waterproof matches to melt snow for drinking water, a sack of sand or cat litter for traction, a shovel, a windshield scraper and brush, tool kit, tow rope, battery booster cables, water container, compass and road maps.
- Keep the gas tank near full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
- Avoid traveling alone.
- Let someone know timetable and primary and alternate routes.

When caught in a winter storm

- Find shelter, try to stay dry and cover all exposed body parts.
- If a shelter is not available, build a lean-to, windbreak or snow cave for protection from the wind.
- Build a fire for heat and to attract attention.
- Place rocks around the fire to absorb and reflect heat.
- Melt snow for drinking water because eating snow will lower the body's temperature.

In a vehicle

- Stay in vehicle: You will become quickly disoriented in wind-driven snow and cold.
- Run the motor about 10 minutes each hour for heat.
- Open the window a little for fresh air to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked.
- Be visible to rescuers: Turn on the dome light at night when running the engine. Tie a colored cloth, preferably red, to the antenna or door.
- After snow stops falling, raise the hood to indicate help is needed.
- Exercise: From time to time, move arms, legs, fingers and toes vigorously to keep blood circulating and to keep warm.

Inside

- Stay inside: When using alternate heat from a fireplace, wood stove, space heater, etc., use fire safeguards and properly ventilate.
- No heat: Close off unneeded rooms. Stuff towels or rags in cracks under doors. Cover windows at night.
- Eat and drink: Food provides the body with energy for producing its own heat. Keep the body replenished with fluids to prevent dehydration.
- Wear layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing. Remove layers to avoid overheating, perspiration and subsequent chill.

For more information on winter storm safety and awareness, visit <http://www.weather.gov/os/winter/index.shtml>.

Traffic Safety **STOP**

Commentary: Taking care in winter--driving, walking

By
JOSEPH L. DAVIS
DLES

Since my last article we've had some minor snow fall. Even though the snow fall was minor, commuters were subjected to traffic accidents and untimely delays. Therefore, I will address the subject matter of this article rather than taking on part II of my last article (covering property damage accidents), which I will address next month.

Snow, ice, and extreme cold can make driving treacherous. These safety tips from CDC, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the National Safety Council can help make winter car travel safer.

Before winter arrives, have your car tuned up, check the level of antifreeze, make sure the battery is good and check your tire tread or put on snow tires.

Keep emergency gear in your car for everyday trips:

- cell phone
- flashlight
- jumper cables
- sand or kitty litter (for traction)
- ice scraper, snow brush, and small shovel
- blankets
- warning devices (e.g., flares, reflectors)

For long car trips, keep food, water, extra blankets and required medication on hand.

Avoid driving in snow or ice storms. If you must travel in bad weather, drive slowly. Let someone know what route you're taking and when you plan to arrive so they can alert authorities if you don't get there.

If your car is parked outside, make sure the exhaust pipe and the area around it are free of snow before you start the car. Snow

See **WINTER TRAVEL**, page 13

Fifth AVCRAD earns bragging rights in theater



Photos by SPC. ELIZABETH JONES, MDNG

Sgt. 1st Class Glen Reisinger and granddaughter Samantha Harper exchange laughs as Reisinger asks Samantha to smile for the camera.

Story by

MASTER SGT. ANNE TRAINER
29TH MPAD

Task Force AVCRAD, or Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot, and Headquarters Aviation Depot Maintenance Roundout Unit, or HQ ADMRU, located in Aberdeen Proving Ground South, returned home in July from support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom where it resumed its role as the command and control cell for the four Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depots located throughout the United States.

The unit members are resting now. They're working at their leisure but not getting back to drill until the beginning of the new year.

"I'm just glad to be home," said property book manager Sgt. 1st Class Kerry Joseph.

Maintenance worker Sgt. 1st Class Robert Mascvicius, who is employed with the maintenance shop full time said, "This

[deployment] was one of the highlights of my career. I can't wait to get back to work."

Organization of the 'fifth' AVCRAD

Army aviation is the same whether someone is active duty, National Guard or Reserve. National Guard pilots fly the same helicopters as active duty pilots and active duty aircraft mechanics have the same training as National Guard mechanics.

There is, however, one very big difference between the two. In the entire Army there are four Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depots (Connecticut, Missouri, California and Mississippi) and one Headquarters, Aviation Depot Maintenance Roundout Unit, and they are all in the National Guard.

To be more accurate, there used to be four AVCRADs and one HQ ADMRU; however, by 2006 the four AVCRADs had each deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Free-

dom and with the deployment cycle about to come full circle it was time to validate a new concept in Army aviation logistics and create the "fifth" AVCRAD.

By bringing together HQ ADMRU and aviation intermediate maintenance experienced Soldiers from 16 states, including Maryland, a "fifth" AVCRAD was officially formed on July 11, 2006 and became Task Force AVCRAD.

What makes the transition of the ADMRU into the "fifth" AVCRAD noteworthy is that the ADMRU is not an organic AVCRAD.

"Colonel Robert Peterson, who was the commander several times back, called this a graduate level organization," said Col. Timothy Gowan, commander of HQ ADMRU and TF AVCRAD. "No one outside of aviation, actually no one even outside of HQ ADMRU, seems to know what we do."

As a rank heavy command and control cell more used to

developing concepts of operations, allocating resources, and providing necessary coordination to accomplish the mission, "graduate level organization" would seem an appropriate description.

"Don't let that description fool you though; this "fifth" AVCRAD has proven itself as TF AVCRAD, they are much more than a graduate level organization of developers and planners," Gowan said.

Over the course of the last year, TF AVCRAD Fix Forward teams were sent to bases in Iraq and Afghanistan to provide direct depot level maintenance and AVIM support to the Combat Aviation Brigades in theatre resulting in over 28,000 man-hours of direct support to units, a direct increase of 30 percent more than previous rotations.

A few of their other accomplishments include completing more than 5,800 separate work orders; producing over 1,400 aviation components under the National Maintenance Program with a serviceable credit value of \$116.7 million; executing in excess of 412,000 supply transactions and processing 574 critical Aircraft on the Ground requests.

If that isn't enough, they have also installed Level 5 Up-Armor on 220 High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicles and crew modification kits to the inside of, and armor and slats to the outside of, several hundred Stryker vehicles.

"Not bad for a rank heavy, command and control cell," Gowan said.

"TF AVCRADs' success, however, isn't only in what has been accomplished in the aviation logistics and maintenance areas, but also in how well this group of Soldiers from sixteen different states has been able to come together as a unit," he said. "It's one thing to deploy thousands of miles from home with a unit that has been together for a long period of time, but to do it as a unit that has just been formed is something else altogether.

"One of the first things you notice when you walk into any of the work areas for TF AVCRAD is that easy familiarity and sense of friendship the Soldiers have with each other, as if they really have been together for years. It makes it hard to believe they have only been together for about twelve months," Gowan said. "In the supply shop it's easy to see that these Soldiers have adapted well to each other and their surroundings. Pictures of Families, friends and favorite sports teams are on display over workbenches."

"We're fortunate in this shop because we have a very good

working relationship, very good rapport with each other," said Sgt. 1st Class Sharon Norton, TF AVCRAD supply coordinator from Joppa.

One of the best things about this deployment, said Norton, has been the people.

"I really can say the people, some people around here really keep it going, keep you laughing, keep you motivated; really good people, contractors and Soldiers," she said.

The creation of this "fifth" AVCRAD and subsequent deployment has also been beneficial to the Soldiers as a skill enhancement experience.

"My level of experience is definitely a lot higher than it was," said Staff Sgt. Joseph Gray, aircraft power plant repairer from Bel Air. "World's of experience [were] gained [in theater], immeasurable amounts of experience. You see things break [there] that you're not going to see back home. So everything you learn [in theater] will be invaluable tenfold back home."

Those same sentiments were expressed by Staff Sgt. Scottie Davis, avionics systems repairer from Baltimore.

"You'll definitely take this experience back to your unit and pass it on to your junior Soldiers," he said.

The Soldiers that make up TF AVCRAD will return to their respective states and units and their lives will once again become routine.

"It is doubtful, however, that anyone will forget what they have accomplished or the experience they have gained as part of TF AVCRAD," Gowan said.

HQ ADMRU will resume their role as the command and control cell for the four AVCRADs forever changed by this experience as the "fifth" AVCRAD.

"They have definitely proven they are much more than that "graduate level organization" of years past. Not only will aviation know who they are and what they do but so will the rest of the National Guard," Gowan said.



Family members reunite with Soldiers in front of the Maj. Gen. Warren D. Hodges Armory Oct. 17 as the unit returned home from Iraq.

Thrift Shop honors donation requests in big way

APG News

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Thrift Shop completed its annual donations to charitable organizations.

"This is the time of year when all of our volunteers' and consigners' efforts pay off," said Fran D'Antonio, bookkeeper. "We were able to spread the wealth to everyone that requested assistance and for some very good causes."

This year's funds went to the Perry Point Veterans holiday gift fund; the Joint Personal Effects Depot for morale support; 5/80th Ordnance Battalion (Army Reserve) for care packages; the Community Policing Office/Crime Prevention Unit to enhance programs on APG; AAFES for calling cards for service members in Iraq; Army Community Service; Army Emergency Relief; the Civilian Welfare Fund; the Military and Civilian Spouse's Club (Garden Club) for APG beautification; the 90th Anniversary Gala and APG Soldiers of the Year.

"Our primary role is to support the APG community and our Soldiers," said Thrift Shop manager Barbara Layton.

"From recognizing the Soldiers of the Year with gift certificates, to sending phone cards to deployed Sol-

diers to beautifying APG or helping with the 90th Anniversary gala, that is what we

are all about. If the justification supports helping the military and Aberdeen Prov-

ing Ground and we have the funds, the request will be honored," D'Antonio said.



MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

Holiday Hours

ACTIVITY	MON 17-DEC	TUE 18-DEC	WED 19-DEC	THU 20-DEC	FRI 21-DEC	SAT 22-DEC
ARTFULLY DONE FRAMING	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	CLOSED			
ARTS & CRAFTS EA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	NOON - 8 p.m.	NOON - 8 p.m.
ATHLETIC CENTER	6 a.m. - 8 p.m.	6 a.m. - 8 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.			
AUTO CRAFTS CENTER	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	3 - 7 p.m.	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
ODR RENTAL CENTER	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	CLOSED			
FITNESS CENTER AA	5:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED			
HOYLE GYM/FITNESS CTR	6 a.m. - 8 p.m.	6 a.m. - 8 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.			
LIBRARY	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED			
MWR LEISURE TRAVEL	CLOSED	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	CLOSED
RECREATION CENTER AA	CLOSED	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED
SNACK BAR	11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED			
RECREATION CENTER EA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
SNACK BAR	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
TOP OF THE BAY	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
BOWLING	11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	11 a.m. - 10 p.m.	11 a.m. - 10 p.m.	5 p.m. - 10 p.m.	1 p.m. - 9 p.m.
GOLF	regular hours	regular hours	regular hours	regular hours	regular hours	regular hours
CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES	regular hours	regular hours	regular hours	regular hours	regular hours	CLOSED

ACTIVITY	TUE 25-DEC	WED 26-DEC	THU 27-DEC	FRI 28-DEC	SAT 29-DEC	SUN 30-DEC
ARTFULLY DONE FRAMING	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
ARTS & CRAFTS EA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
ATHLETIC CENTER	CLOSED	6 a.m. - 6 p.m.	6 a.m. - 6 p.m.	6 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
AUTO CRAFTS CENTER	CLOSED	CLOSED	3 - 7 p.m.	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	NOON - 5 p.m.
ODR RENTAL CENTER	CLOSED	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED
FITNESS CENTER AA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
HOYLE GYM/FITNESS CTR	CLOSED	6 a.m. - 6 p.m.	6 a.m. - 6 p.m.	6 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
LIBRARY	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
MWR LEISURE TRAVEL	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
RECREATION CENTER AA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
SNACK BAR	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
RECREATION CENTER EA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
SNACK BAR	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
TOP OF THE BAY	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
BOWLING	CLOSED	CLOSED	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.	5 p.m. - 10 p.m.	1 p.m. - 9 p.m.	CLOSED
GOLF	CLOSED	regular hours	regular hours	regular hours	regular hours	regular hours
CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES	CLOSED	7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED

Gift wrapping schedule through Dec. 24

December	Organization
13, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Chapel: Religious Education
14, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	US Air Force
15, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Chapel: PWOC
16, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.	CSM Association
17, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Company B, 22nd Chem
18, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	BOSS
19, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Company B, 22nd Chem
20, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Catholic Women of the Chapel
21, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	BOSS
22, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	29th CAB
23, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	HHC USAG
24, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.	MRICD

For more information, contact Marilyn Howard, Army Community Service, 410-278-9669.



Player gets one on one with coach



Photo by BILL KEGLEY, CYS
Dru Inman, a player on the APG U14 Arsenal, a soccer team within the Aberdeen Proving Ground Child Youth Services sports program, gets advice from his coach Mike Layman, a retired Army major, during a regular-season game.

SCHOOL LIAISON

Science, Math Academy accepting applications

The Science and Mathematics Academy at Aberdeen High School, an accelerated and enriched program of studies in science, mathematics, and technology, will accept applications for student enrollment until Dec. 14. Eighth grade students are encouraged to apply for the freshmen class of 2008-2009.

Interested parties may visit the SMA Web site <http://www.scienceandmathacademy.com> or fill in the application at <http://www.hcps.org/schools/docs/magnetprograms/scienceandmath/SMAApplicationPacket.pdf>

Harford County Public Schools Winter Concert schedule

- Dec. 13, 9:30 a.m., 1:30 and 6:30 p.m., Roye-Williams Elementary School, fourth and fifth grade band, chorus, orchestra
- Dec. 13, 7 p.m., Havre de Grace Middle School, Chorus, orchestra
- Dec. 14, 9 a.m., Aberdeen Middle School, sixth grade assembly, band, chorus, orchestra
- Dec. 17, 9 a.m., Aberdeen Middle School, 9 a.m., seventh grade assembly and chorus; seventh and eighth grade band and orchestra
- Dec. 17, 7 p.m., Aberdeen Middle School, concert orchestra, sixth grade band
- Dec. 17, 7 p.m., Edgewood High School, symphonic and jazz band
- Dec. 18, 9 a.m., Aberdeen Middle School, eighth grade assembly: eighth grade chorus; seventh and eighth grade band and orchestra
- Dec. 18, 7 p.m., Edgewood High School: Edgewood Middle School sixth grade band, chorus, orchestra
- Dec. 18, 7 p.m. Aberdeen Middle School, concert band, sixth grade orchestra
- Dec. 18, 7 p.m., Edgewood Middle School, chorus, orchestra
- Dec. 19, Edgewood High School: Edgewood Middle School seventh grade band, chorus
- Dec. 19, 7 p.m. Aberdeen Middle School, all choruses, brass choir

For more information on any APG school related topic, contact Eileen Campbell, 410-278-2857 or e-mail eileen.campbell@apg.army.mil.

Activities/Events

Medieval Times offers "Kids Free" admission in November, December

Medieval Times Diner and Tournaments offers "Kids Free" admittance tickets with each paid adult admission to customers who purchase adult admission tickets at on-post ITR and ITT offices for performances scheduled through Dec. 25. The offer is available at all Medieval Times Castles in North America. "Kids Free" tickets are only available for children 12 years of age or younger.

Families who want to book reservations should call MWR Leisure Travel Office, APG North Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail MWR-LeisureTravel@apg.army.mil.

Discount ski lift tickets available

MWR Registration, Tickets and Leisure Travel Center has discount ski lift tickets for Bear Creek, Blue Mountain, Camelback, Jack Frost/Big Boulder Ski Resorts and Ski Liberty, Ski Roundtop and Whitetail.

For more information, call MWR Registration, Tickets and Leisure Travel Center, 410-278-4907/4011, building 3326, or e-mail mwr_registration@usag.apg.army.mil.

Radio City Christmas Spectacular

Travel to New York City to

see the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular featuring the Rockettes.

- Dec. 14, 4 p.m. show costs \$130.
- Dec. 15, 5 p.m. show costs \$143.
- Dec. 16, 5 p.m. show costs \$130.

Seats are limited, register early. Cost includes charter bus transportation and a ticket for the show. Open to all DoD ID card holders.

For more information or to make reservations, call MWR Leisure Travel Services, APG North Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907, e-mail MWR-LeisureTravel@apg.army.mil.

Scrapbooking Crop

The Civilian Welfare Fund will sponsor a Scrapbooking Crop, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Jan. 26, at Top of the Bay.

For any seasoned scrapbooker or those who would like to try scrapbooking, come and "Crop Till You Drop."

Cost is \$22 per person and includes lunch, door prizes and welcome gifts for everyone. Vendors will have items for all scrapbooking needs; optional classes will be offered; and a massage therapist will be available for an optional massage. This will be a stress-free day for all with plenty of pampering.

For more information or to make a reservation, call Angela Keithley, 410-278-4603.

Christmas in New York

MWR has scheduled several trips to New York City - eight hours for sightseeing, shopping, watching a Broadway matinee, venturing into China Town and more. Trips will take place Dec. 15, 22 and 29. Cost is \$40 per person. The bus will depart 7:55 a.m. and return 10 p.m. Open to all DoD card holders.

For more information or to register, call or visit MWR Leisure Travel Services, APG North Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail MWR_Leisure.

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials Building 2342

Week of Dec. 10

- Special #1: Tuna sub with mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, pickles, onions, potato chips, one cookie and soda for \$4.85.
- Special #2: Tuna wrap with lettuce, tomato, potato chips, one cookie and soda for \$4.75.

Week of Dec. 17

- Special #1: Turkey club sub with bacon, cheese, mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, pickles, onions, potato chips, one cookie and soda for \$5.95.
- Special #2: Ham and cheese sub with mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, potato chips, one cookie and soda for \$4.95.

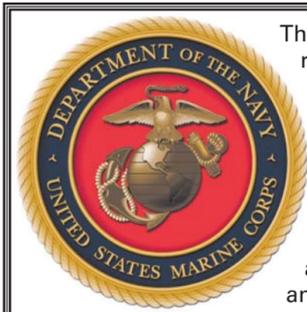
For more information or to place an order, call 410-278-4041. Orders must be placed before 10:30 a.m.





Sports

USMC wins third consecutive Commander's Cup



The Commander's Cup is awarded by the APG Garrison commander each December to the unit that scores the most points in intramural sports during the year.

Units accumulate points by participating in the bench press competition, bowling, basketball, racquetball, dodge ball, 3-on-3 basketball, the deadlift competition, volleyball, tennis, golf, softball, soccer and flag football. Points are awarded for unit participation, division standings and post championship wins.

Final Commander's Cup point totals for 2007

USMC.....	169	CHPPM.....	20
HHC 16TH.....	138	COMPANY E 16TH.....	19
COMPANY B 143RD.....	102	NCOA.....	18
USAF.....	83	COMPANY B 16TH.....	17
COMPANY C 143RD.....	78	NATIONAL GUARD.....	17
COMPANY A 16TH.....	47	JPED.....	14
ATC.....	36	HHC 61ST.....	10
MRICD.....	31	203RD MI.....	10
20TH SUPCOM.....	25	AML.....	10
COMPANY C 16TH.....	22	AMC BAND.....	10
COMPANY A 143RD.....	20		



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

Capt. Gerald Habiger, executive officer of the U.S. Marine Corps Detachment, U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School, right, and Gunnery Sgt. Todd McMahon, the detachment's sports representative, pose with the 2007 Commander's Cup trophy and the detachment's Marines during a presentation ceremony at the Ball Conference Center Dec. 7. Both commended unit members for the achievement.

"This is due to you volunteering your time aside from normal duties," McMahon said. "It says a lot for you and your character."

"There are three hundred of us on this post, and we own that cup," Habiger added. "The road to the commander's cup has got to go through the Marine Corps Detachment."

Commentary: CFC--Making wishes come true

Story by
NELDER SMOTHERS
CFC Office

The Make-A-Wish Foundation is an organization that grants a wish for terminally or physically ill children.

Two of my grandsons, Ayvion and Jesse Smothers, had the experience of having their wish granted through Make-A-Wish.

There are four steps that a child and Family go through before they are accepted: Referral, Medical Eligibility, Finding the True Wish and Creating Joy.

Referral

Make-A-Wish Foundation relies

on medical professionals, parents and children themselves for referrals. Children from ages 2 and one-half to under 18 when referrals are submitted are eligible.

Medical eligibility

A child's medical eligibility is determined by treating physician. To receive a wish the child must be diagnosed with a life threatening diagnosed condition, a progressive, degenerative or malignant condition that has placed the child's life in jeopardy.

Finding the true wish

One of the wish teams is sent to learn the child's one true wish.

Creating joy

Wish granters create an experience based on the child's creativity.

Reliving the experience

Jesse was hospitalized with chronic lung disease and severe Gastro Esophageal Reflux Disease or GERD. Both are illnesses that qualified him for a wish.

Ayvion was diagnosed with chronic bowel obstruction which qualified him for a wish also.

One December 2005 morning, my daughter-in-law, LaKisha Smothers was contacted by Laurel Webber, a coordinator of The Mid-Atlantic Make-A-Wish District. Webber told

LaKisha that a nurse from the University of Maryland Hospital referred her Family to a wish granting service. Webber asked LaKisha if she was available for an interview and did so three weeks later. Ayvion and Jesse were also interviewed.

The Family went on a two-week all expense-paid wish experience to Orlando, Fla. The siblings were included in the wish experience. Cash and luggage were given to the Family.

They visited Animal Kingdom, Disney World, Sea World, Universal Studios and Bush Gardens.

Ayvion and Jesse were treated like

kings. They received the red carpet treatment at Disney World and at Universal Studios. They said the highlight of the trip was when they both had their pictures taken with Mickey Mouse, Minnie, Goofy and Pluto.

For more information, contact the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Mid-Atlantic, 302-478-7145; or visit the Web site at www.midatlantic.wish.org.

Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Mid-Atlantic is #67041 in the Combined Federal Campaign contributor's guide.

Winter travel

From page 8

packed in or around the exhaust pipe can cause high levels of carbon monoxide in the car.

Don't sit in a parked car with the engine running unless a window is open. Do not let your car run while parked in a garage.

If your car stalls or gets stuck in snow, light two flares and place one at each end of the car, a safe distance away. Make sure snow has not blocked the exhaust pipe. Then stay in your vehicle and open a window slightly to let in fresh air. Wrap yourself in blankets and run your vehicle's heater for a few minutes every hour to keep warm.

Walking in icy, snowy weather can be dangerous, but these tips from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration can help make your journey safer.

Dress in layers and wear boots with nonskid soles. Wear a bright scarf or hat or reflective gear so drivers can see you.

Walk on sidewalks if possible. If sidewalks are covered in snow and ice and you must walk in the street, walk against the flow of traffic and as close to the curb as you can.

Don't wear a hat or scarf that blocks your vision or makes it hard for you to hear traffic.

When traveling with babies or small children, dress them in bright or reflective clothing. Always keep children--whether in a stroller or on foot--in front of you and as close to the curb as possible.

Before you step off the curb, make sure oncoming cars and trucks have come to a complete stop.

Until next month, have a safe and Happy Holiday.

One more thing, don't forget to buckle up.

Safety

From front page

commanding general of the USACRC. "No one knows Soldiers better than their Families, and there are few organizations better positioned than Families to influence Soldiers to make safer choices and take fewer risks."

Forrester added that the USACRC believes it is extremely difficult to look a spouse or child in the eye and tell them you are not going to wear your helmet or a seat belt because you don't care enough to stay alive for them.

"The Family Engagement Kit features tools that Family members can use to engage their loved ones in best safety practices in order to help protect them," said Forrester. "Many take very little time or effort, and the payoff is huge."

The kit includes six tools for post-deployment best practices. One such

tool is the Travel Risk Planning System, better known as TRiPS. The aim of TRiPS is to reduce the risk of accidents when traveling by privately owned vehicle, the No. 1 killer of Soldiers.

Another potentially life-saving tool included in the kit is the Motorcycle/ATV Agreement. This tool encourages Families and their Soldiers to discuss the hazards and safety measures associated with riding motorcycles or all-terrain vehicles.

"We as leaders, friends and Family members need to ensure we have checked the block on risk management for these returning Soldiers before we allow them to get behind the wheel or on a motorcycle," Johnson said. "Reminding them to wear safety belts, obey the traffic laws, reduce speed and don't drink and drive can go a long way in preventing an accident or loss of life."

These Web-based tools are self-explanatory, self-supporting with PowerPoint briefs containing associ-

ated talking points.

The Army's goal is to put these tools into the hands and empower Army Family Team Building trainers, Family Readiness Group leaders, brigade-level safety professionals, BOSS leaders, parents, and individual Family members to keep our Army team safe, Forrester added.

Families are encouraged to embrace the Family Engagement Kit as another tool supporting one common desire -- safer Soldiers and Families.

"Family involvement is essential, so I ask for engagement with your loved one," Forrester said. "With your help, we can better protect our nation's most precious assets -- our Soldiers."

"There isn't any reason for a Soldier to be fighting a war, that's defending our nation, only to come home and lose their life because of a careless act," Johnson added.

For more information about the Family Engagement Kit, visit the USACRC Web site <https://cra.army.mil/familyengagement>.

Spouse

From front page

Wells said the Army has been helping military spouses with employment resources for more than 20 years. The Army's Employment Readiness Program provides job search assistance, job skills training and information

and referral services for Soldiers, Family members and eligible military ID card holders.

It provides assistance with resume and resumix writing, interviewing techniques, dressing for success tips and networking. Job skills training includes basic computer training, an overview of the federal employment process, and a class in entrepreneurship.

The ERP managers work with installation Civilian Personnel Offices, community agencies, contractors, and local Army Spouse Employment Partnership, or ASEP representatives.

Under ASEP, the Army has a partnership with Fortune 500 companies and federal agencies who pledged their support to increase employment and career opportunities for Army

spouses. At present there are 31 Fortune 500 companies and five partners from federal and military agencies participating in the program.

Between September 2006 and September 2007, more than 7,200 military spouses were hired by ASEP partners, bringing the current total number to more than 23,000 spouses hired through the partnership.

The Military Spouse Job Search

Web site, www.msjs.org was launched in July 2005 as a portal for military spouse resumes and a place for ASEP partners and registered military spouse-friendly employers to post their job vacancies.

The new DoD and Department of Labor initiative, however, adds funding for education and training that had not been available before under the Army programs, Wells said.

ACS

From front page

Robinson asked all to think about Family, friends and sacrifice during the holiday season and commended those in attendance for their service and sacrifice.

"There are thousands of Soldiers deployed throughout the world," Robinson said. "As we go into the holiday season, I would ask you to think about them and remember them in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you, [Soldiers], for your service and thank you, Families, for your support."

Robinson and Weissman were joined onstage for the tree lighting by the U.S. Army Veterinary Service Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, Staff Sgt. Robert Pircher, his wife Brooke and 3 year-old son Aiden and the AMC Soldier of the Year Spc. Samuel Yoo, AMC Band.

The tree lighting symbolized the simultaneous lighting of the holiday tree in front of the chapel in APG South, Weissman noted.

As Yoo threw the switch a burst of applause

sounded as the lights came on.

As the AMC Band's brass quintet, led by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Bauerle, played Christmas carols, Beckett and the children in attendance led sing-alongs.

Noting that it was time for the extravaganza to begin, Beckett promised the children "a visit from our friend in the red suit."

She thanked the program's sponsors, the APG Federal Credit Union, CACI, USAA, State Farm and the Aberdeen McDonald's.

"They were very generous and we thank them for supporting our Families," Beckett said.

She encouraged attendees to visit the Army Substance Abuse Program display table during the evening. Cindy Scott ASAP prevention coordinator and

Samson Robinson, prevention specialist manned the table that consisted of safe holiday information including alcohol-free beverage recipes and a punchbowl full of Sunshine Punch.

"This is to let people know that there are tasty options out there that make it easy to celebrate sober," Scott said.

The extravaganza included games, raffle

drawings for presents, face painting, and dinner and refreshments. Children and parents lined up in the center's game room for photos with Santa and Mrs. Clause who gave each child a present and every child who participated in the games also received a present.

Parents and sponsors said they enjoyed being a part of the event.

"This is excellent," said Dee Dee Hughes, a military spouse as she sat with her two children, Ja'Von, 4 months old and daughter D'Asia, 7. "This is our first time here, and I think it's very nice what they've done for the children," Hughes said.

"She's having a great time," said military spouse Antoinette Jones as she and her daughter Arlasia, 5, tasted holiday punch at the ASAP display. "The whole [event] is very nice."

Lt. Col. Mary McPeak, commander of the 143rd Ordnance Battalion, said she was "very impressed" with the festivities as she enjoyed refreshments with her husband, and daughter Haleigh, 3.

"They've done a great job with all these activities," McPeak said. "I was so surprised by it all. Every child gets a toy. It's amazing."

"Whenever we can, we contribute to APG activities, especially around the holidays," said Chuck Van Zee, CACI vice president and division manager. An Army veteran himself, Van Zee said that CACI is about 40 percent military, either veterans or Family members. "We know what the holidays mean to Families; and we just like to help out," he said.

Timothy Hammond, an agent with the new State Farm Insurance Bulle Rock office on Route 40 in Havre de Grace, said the organization was "thrilled to be involved with Soldiers and their Families."

"We contacted MWR to see what we could do to support our troops during the holidays," Hammond said. "This is a great event and we'll absolutely be involved every year."

Military units assisting the event included volunteers from the U.S. Marine Corps Detachment who greeted attendees and distributed raffle tickets at the information table at the front door; 16 members of the Advanced NCO Academy who dished out helpings on the serving line; and 18 volunteers from the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Academy who conducted face painting and games for the children.



Your health is KUSAHC's goal



KUSAHC decorates donated tree for Soldiers



Kayley Dennis, 7, and her brother Eddie Dennis, 10, place yellow ribbons on the Christmas tree dedicated to deployed service members at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic Dec. 5. The children's father, Maj. Ed Dennis is serving overseas in Korea.

Story and photo by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Staff members and patients at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic paid tribute to service members deployed in the War on Terror during a Christmas tree decoration gathering on

the clinic's front lawn Dec. 5. Led by KUSAHC commander, Col. William Rice, participants took turns tying yellow ribbons to the 10-foot Douglas Fir tree that was donated by the Jarrettsville Nursery in Jarrettsville, Md. Rice, who placed the first

ribbon, said that the event was a mutual expression of respect for service members' sacrifices.

"We're very close as a staff, and we appreciate the fact that we get to live under the protection of our troops," Rice said. "We need to stop and think

about the dangers our troops are in every day.

"We lost one of our own," he said in reference to Capt. Maria Ortiz, the former KUSAHC nurse who was killed in Iraq earlier this year. "I dedicated the first ribbon to her," he said.

He credited Sue Millette Frederick, an industrial hygiene technician in the clinic's Preventive Medicine Division, with putting the event together.

Millette Frederick said that the theme for the event was "Those At Home Remember."

"This is just our way of remembering our Soldiers and saying we care about the Soldiers who come here," she said.

KUSAHC nurse Peggy Doty, a member of the planning committee, added that preparations for the event began months ago.

"When it comes to our Soldiers, we think up stuff and we act on it," Doty said.

When the decorating was done, participants enjoyed refreshments in the clinic lobby and listened to holiday music by the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band's brass quintet led by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Bauerle.

Millette Frederick thanked Rice, the Jarrettsville Nursery

and all committee members and participants.

"It's good to have command support behind us," she said. "Colonel Rice is a huge supporter of these kinds of events."

Jarrettsville Nursery co-owner Gary Thomas said that the donation of the 10-foot Douglas Fir tree was the first donation made to Aberdeen Proving Ground, thanks to Millette Frederick.

"She's a longtime customer and when she asked for [the donation] we were happy to do it," Thomas said.

He said that the nursery is a member of the Maryland and Pennsylvania chapters of the National Christmas Tree Association and participates in the Trees for Troops program.

"This is our second year in the program and we plan to keep it up," Thomas said.

Donors can purchase trees for the Trees for Troops program at 40 retail locations and farms including the Jarrettsville Nursery.

"It's our way of saying thank you," he said.

For more information, visit the Jarrettsville Nursery Web site at <http://www.jntrees.com>; or call 410-557-9677.

Trees for Troops

Sponsored by the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation, a

nonprofit organization based in Missouri, Trees for Troops is a national program that provides Christmas trees free of charge to service members and their Families.

According to its Web site, the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation is committed to keeping the spirit of Christmas alive and growing memories for the next generation of children and families.

To achieve this mission, the foundation focuses on programs for children, Families and the environment, all designed to enhance the Christmas spirit.

This year, Trees for Troops expects to deliver 17,000 Christmas trees in 29 states with more than 10,000 donated by 750 tree farmers.

The trees will be delivered to 37 military installations nationwide and to National Guard Families in four states as well as to 15 countries in which troops are deployed.

Christmas tree farmers donate the trees and FedEx covers the transportation costs.

Contributions can be made to the Trees for Troops program through the Combined Federal Campaign, #12283.

For more information, visit the Trees for Troops Web site, <http://www.treesfortroops.org/>.

New leader for warrior care, transition

Story by
JERRY HARBEN
U.S. Army Medical Command

One of the Army's top advocates for the care and treatment of its ill and wounded Soldiers and their Families now will serve as assistant surgeon general for warrior care and transition.

The Army has assigned Brig. Gen. Michael S. Tucker, who has been deputy commander of the Army's North Atlantic Regional Medical Command as well as director of the Army Medical Action Plan, to lead the service's warrior care and transition effort.

Tucker, a two-time combat veteran, has been known by the media as a "bureaucracy buster," and was charged with transforming wounded warrior care in March following news reports a month earlier about substandard living conditions and procedural obstacles for wounded Soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

"As a leader of Soldiers, I am humbled by this responsibility and the implications it will have on the force for years to come," said Tucker, a 35-year Army career veteran. "What we do today to transform the military health care system and respond to the needs of our Soldiers and their Families — at a time in their lives when they need us most — will shape the force for years to come. Anything other than a complete transformation of the system is unacceptable."

Tucker and his staff have spear-

headed efforts to create warrior transition units to give better leadership and supervision to Soldiers recovering from wounds, to improve their housing and other service facilities and to establish centers to provide administrative and social-work services for Soldiers and Families.

According to Maj. Gen. Gale S. Pollock, acting, The Surgeon General, "Soldiers who are recovering from injuries or illnesses in our hospitals, or who are leaving the Army for civilian life or to receive care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, have earned the very best service and support we can provide. They have an advocate in Mike Tucker. He impresses everyone with his energy and enthusiasm as he aggressively tackles these important issues. He will continue that focus in his new position as assistant surgeon general for warrior care and transition."

While Tucker's title has changed, his team remains focused on providing policy and program oversight of 35 WTUs.

In the WTUs, each patient is assigned a squad leader, a case manager and a primary-care manager to make sure the wounded Soldier receives appropriate treatment and adequate administrative support and his or her Family's needs are met.

Tucker, a former drill sergeant, said that during his career he has faced many challenges, but the personal responsibility he feels for improving the lives of his fellow Soldiers is

what drives him to bust through the bureaucracy.

The general is quick to credit the team of Army physicians, nurses, social workers, benefits counselors, platoon sergeants, squad leaders and other support staff members who have stepped up to this new challenge and who have repeatedly shown their dedication and commitment to serving and caring for their brethren.

"Our team has worked hard to change the way we provide care to our ill and wounded," Tucker said. "I am proud of their work."

The AMAP chief of staff agreed, adding that it has taken courage and leadership to see this vision through.

"We are determined from top to bottom [of the organization] to transform this process," said Col. Jimmie O. Keenan, chief of staff for AMAP. "General Tucker has empowered all of us to make a difference. Of course, it is not perfect. We will have to make adjustments as we move through this process to make sure we are truly meeting the needs of our troops, and we will. There is so much passion and commitment at all levels of the organization from our specialists to senior Army leaders to make sure we are serving our fellow Soldiers as fiercely at home as they served the nation on the battlefield. I can see the sense of duty and responsibility in the eyes of everyone on the staff. We all know what we are doing is the right thing for our fellow Soldiers."

Keenan said the transformed mil-

itary health care system focuses on the total care of ill and wounded Soldiers and their Families, including the severely injured. No longer will a Soldier or a Soldier's loved one have to search for the ID card section, or ask how to get billeting or even a ride to the airport.

The WTUs will also link Families to warrior medical care, rehabilitation and benefits as they have never been before with the addition of Soldier Family Assistance centers. The Installation Management Command-sponsored assistance centers will provide help with documents, payments, access cards, insurance and more. Ill and wounded Soldiers will also receive legal assistance concerning Medical Evaluation Board and Physical Evaluation Board cases.

The 35 WTUs are expected to be fully operational by early 2008, AMAP officials said.

"These warriors have risked life and limb to defend our nation's freedoms, and it is our duty to honor and serve them with compassion and dignity," Tucker said. "These Soldiers are warriors in need of healing. They need to know that's what we are there to do for them, so that their focus is on recovery and not whether their rent will be paid."

Harford County Health Department adds more flu clinics in December

The Harford County Health Department encourages residents who have not yet received their flu vaccination to visit the Health Department at 119 S. Hays Street, Bel Air.

Flu shot schedule

- Dec. 14, 9 to 11 a.m.
- Dec. 19, 3:30 to 5 p.m.
- Dec. 21, 9 to 11 a.m.

Vaccinations cost \$20, cash or check, or free to persons with Medicare Part B. No medical assistance will be accepted. Wear short sleeves or a loose fitting shirt.

For more information, call 410-638-8459 or the 24-hour Flu Clinic Hotline, 410-420-3433.

TRICARE responds quickly to possible risk to beneficiary data

U.S. DoD Department of Health

A limited amount of TRICARE beneficiary data has been placed at risk through unauthorized access to claims information.

Proactive measures are being taken to ensure that affected TRICARE beneficiaries are informed. Analysis thus far has not produced indications of the beneficiary data being misused.

Patient data was found to be accessible in a manner that did not meet stringent security specifications for the Department of Defense or TRICARE's information technology services provider Electronic Data Systems. The data included personal information such as the full or partial Social Security number of the primary beneficiary, and for a dependent, name, birth date and limited health information.

The data was held on a Web application server that allowed external entities an unauthorized level of access without going through the required authentication process if the Web address was known. That situation has since been remedied.

EDS has sent out approximately 4,700 notification letters informing affected beneficiaries of the risk. The envelopes contain a cover letter from Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director, TRICARE Manage-

ment Activity. They also contain an informational letter about the incident from EDS, including identity protection information.

EDS has established a specific "help line" to handle questions and concerns. The beneficiary notification letters contain a toll-free number—800-556-3195—that can be used in the United States and from overseas. Those located outside the United States must dial the country's AT&T USADirect access number first.

EDS is offering beneficiaries put at risk a free, one-year subscription to a credit monitoring and protection service. Through this service, beneficiaries will have access to specialists with a leading identity theft and mitigation firm. These specialists will be able to respond to concerns about any actual identity theft as well as provide more detailed information on credit, fraud and identity theft matters.

Additionally, those affected will receive up to \$20,000 identity theft protection coverage with no deductible as it relates to this matter.

Additional information about the incident can be found at the TRICARE Web site press room at www.tricare.mil.

Information on steps TRICARE beneficiaries can take to protect themselves from identity theft is available at www.tricare.mil/tmaprivacy/itpr.cfm.

LEAVE DONATIONS

To participate in the Voluntary Leave Program, use forms OPM 630, Application to Become a Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program; OPF 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (within agency); and OPM 630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency). For more information, call Ronda McKinney, 410-278-8988, or e-mail rondamckinney@usag.apg.army.mil.

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Neoma Amberman	Barbara Crossley	Cindy Orwig
Karen Blades	John Daigle	Gloria Scott
William Bond	Wayne Doyle	Donna Sexton
Debra Bonsall (daughter has brain tumor)	Linda Foust	Mark Shipman
Henry Cason	Beverly King (caring for husband)	Dianne Simmons
Donna Cianelli	Coby Lanry	Willie Stevenson
George Colletta	Gloria Morales	Christine Wheaton
Janice Combs	Margaret Nahrgang	Charles Young

16TH ORDNANCE BATTALION WINS AMATEUR BOXING NIGHT

Story and photos by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

After being down three bouts to none, the 16th Ordnance Battalion came back with a flurry of fists to defeat the 143rd Ordnance Battalion and win the Amateur Boxing Tournament at Hoyle Gym Nov. 17.

A packed house greeted the young fighters but despite being green the Warriors put on one of the most entertaining shows since the biannual competition began.

The 16th won three of the 15 bouts after referees called the matches after 143rd fighters could no longer defend themselves.

In the fifth bout the 16th's Harland Aquirre knocked 143rd's Marceyion Whitehead through the ropes to end the bout with a TKO but the biggest blow of the night may have been landed by the 143rd's Marc Pansner who dropped the 16th's Nicholas D'eroles with such force that it took several minutes to bring him around enough to exit the ring.

Dr. Martin Rose, Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, and APG South paramedics tended to the injured fighters.

The night opened with the singing of the national anthem by Luis Rodriguez, APG Garrison chaplain's assistant, and a posting and retirement of the colors by the 143rd Ordnance Battalion color guard.

Lt. Col. Mary McPeak, commander of the 143rd Ordnance Battalion, presented the trophies to the winning and runner-up teams.

Coaches said they were proud of their teams' efforts.

"We started slow but they stayed with it," said 16th coach Leodon Cason, adding that training started six weeks ago.

The main part of the training was building confidence, he said. He thanked the command, assistant coach Luis Pacheco and his fighters for the successful evening.

"They were confident and they listened to instruction," Cason said. "They were the stars of the show."

John Richardson led the 143rd coaching team that also consisted of Francisco Barosio and Jason Manthe.



Richard Hawes, 16th, left, goes on the attack against 143rd's Karac Kirby in the third round of the 14th bout. Hawes won the bout by decision.

Richardson said that training started in mid-September but that they lost some of the original fighters when the date was changed from October to November.

"Our Soldiers had a lot of dedication and overall this [tournament] was one of the better ones I've been a part of," he said. "I told them regardless of how you do, you are not a loser."

He thanked his coaches and his command.

"They really supported us to make sure we had what we needed to put on a quality fight," he said.

Fighters agreed it was a quality night.

Zachary Malone, 16th, a 22-year old from Tupelo, Miss., won the eighth bout with a TKO in the second round over the 143rd's Andrew Schlosser. He said it was his first time boxing.

"He hit hard," Malone said, "and I think he knew more than me so I just hit him as hard as I could. I always wanted to box and I enjoyed it," he said.

An 18-year old from Guatemala, Harland Aquirre said that although he had boxed before, he still had to check his opponent's skills.

"I was feeling him out the first round and in the second round I put my technique to work," Aquirre said.

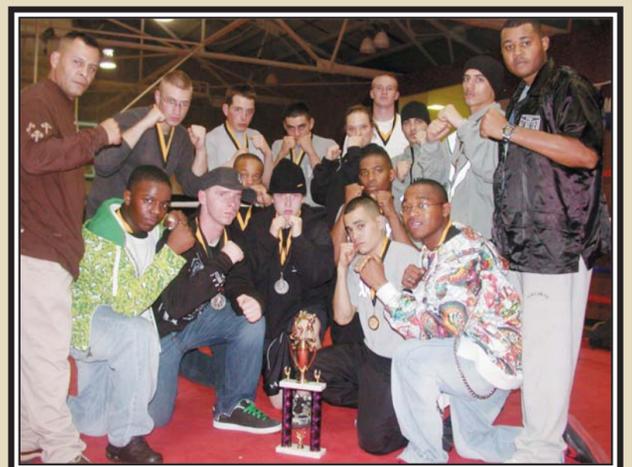
He thanked his coaches for his success.

"The coaches were very good," he said. "If it wasn't for them, we wouldn't be here."

David Crump served as ring announcer and Kyle McDevitt served as the ring girl. The tournament judges included James Bell, Michael Perez, Willie Hardy, Timothy Mitchell, Dwayne White and Charles Heinsohn, and Ralph Cuomo and Donna Coyne served as scorer and timer.

Facility manager, Earlene Allen, the event coordinator, expressed her thanks to unit commanders for supporting the event.

"Special thanks to the commands of the Sixteenth and One forty third ordnance battalions for allowing their Soldiers to train and condition themselves to compete in the APG Amateur Boxing Program," Allen said.



Coaches and members of the 16th Ordnance Battalion boxing team pose with their medals and championship trophy after winning the Amateur Boxing Tournament at Hoyle Gym Nov. 17.

AMATEUR BOXING TOURNAMENT RESULTS

143rd Ordnance Battalion	16th Ordnance Battalion
Liz Rivera (Win)	Kiley Smith
Marc Pansner (Win)	Nicholas D'eroles
Anthony Simmons (Win)	Gregory Huzzie
Aaron Barajaslara	Severo Rojas (Win)
Marceyion Whitehead	Harland Aquirre (Win)
Anthony Sprinkler	Alfred Gee (Win)
Chelsie Kennedy (Win)	Amy Testerman
Andrew Schlosser	Zachary Malone (Win)
Glenn San Roman (Win)	Christopher Myers
Speedy Gonzalez	William Valequez (Win)
Joshua Whitley (Win)	Yuri Brown
Arthur Williams	Larry Bruton (Win)
Denny Decker	Brandon Mullenix (Win)
Karac Kirby	Richard Hawes (Win)
Sean Pulley	Kendall Harper (Win)



143rd's Joshua Whitley and 16th's Yuri Brown square off during the first round of their 11th bout match up. Whitley went on to win by decision.

Company B 143rd defeats HHC 16th to win intramural football championship, 28-6

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

After a heartbreaking loss in the post championship game in 2006, Company B, 143rd Ordnance Battalion stormed back to beat its nemesis, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Ordnance Battalion to win the intramural flag football post championship Nov. 15.

Led by Hercules Murray, the unit commander who also quarterbacked the team, Company B 143rd finished the regular season 8-1 and then went undefeated through the post-season tournament.

Murray, who had two rushing and two passing touchdowns, credited returning players Sgts. 1st Class Corey Blue and Garvin Jackson and Staff Sgt. Anthony Davis, as well as Capt. Germaine Simon with shaping eleven students into a force to be reckoned with, noting that the team jumped out to a 12-0 lead within the first three minutes.

"I knew this team was good going in," Murray said. "They

played a good game but they were no match for us."

In his third and final year as quarterback, Murray said the victory was "very sweet."

"This was a big pay back," he said. "More so, because they had to come to Edgewood. It was nice to brush aside that championship loss [from last year]."

A native of Aberdeen, Murray worked as a summer hire on the proving ground before graduating from Aberdeen High School in 1996. He heads to Fort Devens, Mass., in April. He thanked students Jonathan Stephens and Cornelius Rivers for their efforts in the successful season.

"They started game one and finished the whole season with us," he said.

Other important contributors included student captains Zerek Mack and Marceyion Whitehead, he said.

"This was a great ending to a two-year command," Murray said. "It's amazing what you can accomplish with four cadre and eleven students."



Photo courtesy of CAPT HERCULES MURRAY
Members of the Company B 143rd Ordnance Battalion intramural flag football team pose with their trophies the day after winning the post championship.